

Wright County Soil & Water Conservation District

Wright County Soil & Water Conservation District

5220 Highway 5
Hartville, MO 65667
www.swcd.mo.gov/wright

Phone: 417-741-6195 ext. 4
Fax: 417-741-6198



Helping People Help the Land
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Equipment for Rent			Other Available Equipment	
No-Till Drill	7ft.	\$5.00/ac	For Sale	
	10ft	\$6.00/ac	Ritchie Water Tanks	
Boom Sprayer		\$20.00/day	And Parts	
Boom Sprayer w/Marker		\$35.00/day	Concrete Tanks	
Brush Sprayer		\$15.00/day	No Cost	
Broadcast Seeder		\$15.00/day	Crimping Tools	
Post Driver		\$30.00/day	Soil Augers	
Post Hole Digger		\$3.00/hole	Spinning Jenny	
		\$25.00 minimum		
Corner Post Driver		\$50.00/day		
Lime Spreader		\$50.00/day		
Mulcher		\$50.00/day		
Roller		\$30.00/day		
Flex Harrow		\$40.00/day		
Roto Wiper		\$35.00/day		
Manure Spreader		\$100.00/day		
Tank Wagon		\$100.00/day		
		+\$25.00 delivery		

Lagoon Pumping Equipment	
First 20 hours	\$50.00/hour
All remaining hours	\$45.00/hour
Set-up/Take-down	\$30.00/hour

Wright County Soil & Water Conservation District

SUMMER 2009



Across The Fence

Wesley Lebahn
District Technician

The classic fence line conversation for me will always be Tim Taylor and Mr. Wilson. Mr. Wilson had the solution to all of Tim’s’ troubles. Unfortunately we can’t all have a Mr. Wilson in our neighborhood the best we can hope for is a good neighbor. Living in the Ozarks there is a good chance that you have seen this scenario played out on a frequent basis. While some people may look at farmers as being in competition with one another they are still a neighbor. When it comes right down to it the majority of people would like to see those around them happy and successful.

This “fence line” networking system often ends up with a phone call or personal visit to our office. “My neighbor said you may be able to help me out” is what the staff at the Soil and Water office hears on a regular basis. One such conversation led Sammy and Geri Webster to our office. Little did they know when they went to ask a neighbor about a bull, a new grazing system was in their future. When they started talking to their neighbor about some of the issues they were dealing with, he suggested that they contact us. We are available for consultation and we frequently get to help with cost as well. The Webster’s, particularly Sammy, weren’t enthusiastic about coming in since they had been turned down for a ECP well and pipeline in the past. “I didn’t want anything to do with the USDA”, they felt like it would be a waste of time.

Just ask the Webster’s about their new grazing system and the smile on each of their faces tells the whole story. “I haven’t had to chop ice for two years now” Sammy will tell you. He has fallen in love with energy free freeze proof water tanks. “All you have to do is tap on the closures each morning to make sure the cattle can push them in. It’s just that easy”! To get the whole story you will need some time; they are sold on rotational grazing.

After Sammy retired from Springfield City Utilities in 1997; he and Geri bought a house on the lake in Oklahoma. They enjoyed their time there but when the kids and grand kids had less time to visit them it became evident that a move was in their future. Ash Grove was the next Webster residence but they soon had development getting closer to them and “sooner than I ever dreamed we were looking for real estate”, Geri said.

cont’d on page 2

Board of Supervisors

J.D. Hutsell, Chairman
Dan Divine, Vice Chairman
Vacant, Treasurer
Ted Probert, Secretary
Jacklyn Shaffer, Member

SWCD Staff

Missy Wollard, District Manager
Carol Ellis, Program Technician
Harlin Williams , District Technician
Wesley Lebahn, District Technician
Cody Whorton , District Technician
Ron Wright , Equipment Technician
Kavin Mitchell, Pumping Technician
Jack Hicks, Pumping Technician

NRCS

Adam Reed, District Conservationist
Gorman Bennett
Resource Conservationist

Farm Service Agency

Clyde Connelly, CED
Sue Price, Program Technician

Don't Let Algae Take Over Your Water Tanks



Ways to Control Algae Growth in Stock Tanks

- Each week, add two or three ounces of household bleach for every 50 gallons of water capacity.
- Mix a solution containing one cup of zinc sulfate and one gallon of warm water. Add one cup of solution for every 250 gallons of water capacity. Reapply when algae growth starts to reappear.

With both methods, simply pour in the specified amount of chemical and fill the tank. Proper levels of the chemicals will not harm the cows. Clean the tanks first for longer protection.

Across The Fence

cont'd from page 1

Sammy grew up near Camdenton which was quickly ruled out due to the tourist aspect. Sammy will tell you “I like to go to the lake just like everybody else. I just don’t want to live there.” Geri had family around Mansfield so they started looking there. After looking at several places that just didn’t seem to fit them the realtor said there was one more farm that met the acreage range that they were after. “When we came around the corner I immediately recognized the place” Geri said. “I brought my kids here to play several times. That was years ago though.” “When we rounded that last curve I instantly fell in love. Well wouldn’t you?” Sammy asked me. It truly is a beautiful Ozarks farm. Thomas Kincaid could not have painted any better. Forty acres of the 160 acre farm that they purchased in 2005 was an original farmstead of Geri’s daughter’s family. Her great-great grandfather Absalom Rush was the original owner.

The farm had two pastures simply because the road split the farm. Twenty acres on the west side of the road and one hundred forty on the east side. The farm now has five fields instead of just two with water available in each field. Sammy now keeps his cows on one of the two fields just across the road from his house for the winter. “I can watch for new calves, if I need to catch a calf or cow my corral is right there it has made my life a lot easier.” As winter ends and spring begins Sammy is able to save some of his fields for hay production, which he really may not even need, however the excess needs to be removed. Hay feeding has been cut nearly in half since the grazing system has been installed. According to Sammy he has even sold some hay the last couple years. “My barn still has hay in it; I have been able to accomplish that without any extra acres.”

The Webster’s have accomplished a great deal on their farm. With less than 3500’ of fence and 2000’ of pipeline grazing efficiency has been improved allowing the opportunity to sell excess hay or increase the size of the herd. The Webster’s have continued improving their pastures by adding to the grazing system without the assistance of cost-share. It has been said many times and many ways but efficiency is the key especially in tough economic times. I think Geri summed up the entire project when she said with a huge smile “it’s the best thing we have done for this old farm.”

Don't Let Your Hard Earned Dollars Be Chewed Away

The army worm season should currently be at its peak; however, our office has not had any reports of infestations. According to the University of Missouri army worms run on a four year cycle with this being a possibly heavy year. It is a good time to be on the lookout for them, as well as, scouting for other insects that could be an issue, such as, grasshoppers.

In an alfalfa or heavy clover field the University recommends a threshold of 3-7 grasshoppers per square yard. In a grass pasture situation the threshold rises to 15 grasshoppers per square yard. With all the unknowns in agriculture that a landowner cannot control it is important to be diligent about the ones that can be controlled. Insect infestations are an area in which diligent scouting can result in control of potential problems.



Fescue Toxicosis Syndromes

By Cody Whorton
District Technician

Fescue toxicosis syndromes affect a lot of animals every year in the Ozarks. There are a few different kinds of syndromes that can affect your livestock: fescue foot, fat necrosis, and summer slump. These different kinds of Fescue Toxicosis Syndromes are three ways that your cattle can suffer from having fescue as your main forage program.

The causes of fescue toxicosis syndromes are because of the well known endophyte fungus. This endophyte fungus lives inside of the plant and produces toxins. It is the most highly concentrated in the seed of the plant, and is spread through the seed and not plant to plant.

There are many different effects that fescue foot can cause to your cattle. Some of the effects on the animals are poor circulation, lameness in cold weather, and elevated respiration rate. Some of the more serious effects of fescue foot are the loss of the hoof, ears and the loss of the tail switch.

Another type of Fescue toxicosis syndrome is fat necrosis. Fat Necrosis is caused by fescue fertilized by high levels of nitrogen. Fat necrosis is when there are hard fat masses around the reproductive and digestive tracts. This could eventually cause digestive disturbances in the animal and could also cause calving problems.

Summer slump is the next type of fescue toxicosis syndrome. Summer slump is when you see your cattle standing in the pond relentlessly. The effects of standing in the pond can lead to foot rot, internal parasites, poor quality of water, and poor quality fish habitat. The sign that a cow might be in summer slump is if you notice a cow with an arched back for an extended period of time, rough hair coat in the summer, poor conception rates, and thickened placenta. Because of summer slump the animals have a lower daily gain and also have a lower calving rate.

Fescue toxicosis syndrome also causes problems in a horse’s reproduction cycle. The mare can have abortions, prolonged gestation, thick placentas, retained placenta, and little to no milk production. To reduce the risk of this remove pregnant mares during the last 90 days of the pregnancy and feed hay to dilute the endophyte.

From all of the bad things about the endophyte there are also some positives. The plant has more resistance to insects, drought, higher temperatures and overgrazing. Although this does not make up for the fact that there are a few bad things about the endophyte.

Some of the solutions to fight the endophyte are to add some legumes into your fields. This allows for higher forage yields, better animal performance, nitrogen fixation, and more summer growth. You could also add a rotational grazing system to your farm. This will keep the grass more vegetative and there will be a lower endophyte level in the leaf blades. Another solution to the problem is to add warm season grasses to your grazing system to allow for summer grazing. By adding warm season grasses to your farm you are avoiding the endophyte levels when they are at their highest. One more way to combat high endophyte levels is to add fungus free fescue to your fields. There is also a friendly endophyte grass that you could possibly sow that has the endophyte but does not carry the detrimental toxin that affects the animal.

These are just some of the things to be thinking about with summer coming on. If you have any questions about this or any of our programs feel free to call me at 417-741-6195 ext. 4.

Custom workers - - are you out there?

Do you hire out for out for seedbed preparation, spraying, no-tilling, bushhogging, building or fixing fence, hauling and spreading lime, cutting and bailing hay or other farm related work let us know. We maintain and provide to landowners a list of custom workers upon request. Let us know if you would like to be added as a custom worker, call or e-mail to confirm that you are already on our list. You can reach us at 417-741-6195 ext. 4 or carol.ellis@swcd.mo.gov.

